

Thank you for your comment, Renee Reinhardt.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is OST2012D50142.

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OST2012 Draft PEIS

Comment ID: OST2012D50142

First Name: Renee

Middle Initial: C

Last Name: Reinhardt

Organization:

Address: PO Box 446

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: Kalama

State: WA

Zip: 98625

Country: USA

Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I am deeply concerned about the potential effects to our water, wildlife, communities and public lands if the BLM initiates a commercial oil shale leasing program. The two million acres in UT, WY and CO previously allocated for commercial leasing is a massive amount of public, taxpayer land that would be sacrificed for a singular use of the landscape.

While the preferred alternative (Alternative 2) is a step in the right direction, BLM should consider an alternative that does not endorse giveaways of public lands to this unproven industry.

Oil shale is currently producing no jobs and no revenue. The Congressional Budget Office confirmed that it is not expected to produce significant revenues through 2022. This means we have time to thoroughly assess the impacts of development to our water, wildlife and communities, and should not rush now to give away public lands.

The land overlying oil shale resources in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming is some of the best wildlife habitat in the West. Outdoor recreation and tourism are huge economic drivers that depend on this habitat. The farming and ranching sectors require reliable access to water resources, which may be depleted by extensive commercial oil shale development. We must protect these jobs by making smart decisions about how we allow oil companies to move forward with oil shale speculation.

I recommend that you carefully consider the serious impacts of oil shale production to our wildlife, water, air, and communities as you take another look at oil shale development.